EXHIBIT A

The paragraph at p. 4, ll. 14-17, showing changes pursuant amendment::

Figure 6 is a sectional view of the retainer, taken substantially along line 6-6 of Fig. [4] 5, with the retainer attached to an end of an elastomeric band, shown in phantom lines, depicting passage of each side of the first end of an elastomeric band through opposed retaining notches formed in the retainer.

The paragraph beginning at p. 5, l. 20, and continuing through p. 6, l. 5, showing changes pursuant amendment::

To attach retainer 5 to the band 10, retainer 5 generally includes at least one notch, generally indicated by the numeral 20, formed in a body portion 21. As best shown in Fig. 5, the notch 20 generally includes a band receiving portion 23, which may be in the form of a slot lying substantially parallel to the axis A of body portion 21, and a mouth portion 24. The band receiving portion 23 is generally formed such that one or more sides 13, 14 of the elastic band 10 may rest within the notch 20 in a substantially relaxed position. To prevent the retainer 5 from easily sliding axially along band 10, the width W_W of band receiving portion 23 may be made very close to the width W_B of the elastic band 10. For example, to accommodate bands having a width W_B of about .375 inches to about .625 inches retainer 5 may have a notch 20 having a band receiving portion 23 having a width W_W of about .35 inches to about .625 inches and a thickness T_W of about .045 inches to about .075 inches with a mouth 24 having a width W_M of about .125 inches to about .25 inches and mouth thickness T_M of about .035 inches to about .05 inches. When two notches 20, 20′ are present, as seen in Fig. 5, each respective base 26 of a notch 20 may be located at a distance D of about .08 inches to about .125 inches from the outer surface [31] 30 of retainer 10 leaving a strip of material 27 between notches 20, 20′ sufficient to resist bending forces applied by the elastomeric band 10 during the use of the retainer 5 without failure.